

**CLAIMS**

1. Microparticle comprising
  - a) a bead essentially consisting of a cross-linked carbohydrate and
  - b) an antigen which is covalently bound to the bead.
2. Microparticle according to claim 1 wherein the carbohydrate bead consists essentially of agarose.
3. Microparticle according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the antigen is an allergen.
4. Microparticle according to claim 3 wherein the allergen is derived from plant pollen.
5. Microparticle according to claim 4 wherein the allergen is derived from grass pollen.
6. Microparticle according to claim 5 wherein the allergen is derived from timothy grass pollen.
7. Microparticle according to any one of claims 1-6 wherein the particle size ranges from 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .
8. Microparticle according to any of claims 1-7 wherein the particle size ranges from 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .
9. Microparticle according to any of claims 1-8 characterized in that the microparticle is used for vaccination.
10. Microparticle according to any of claims 1-8 characterized in that the microparticle is used for the treatment of allergy.

11. Medicament for the treatment of the immune system characterized in that it comprises microparticles according to any of claims 1-10.
12. Medicament according to claim 11 characterized in that it is prepared for parenteral application.
13. Diagnostic test system for the measurement of released cell mediators characterized in that it comprises microparticles according to any of claims 1-8.
14. Diagnostic test system according to claim 13 wherein the released cell mediator to be measured is an interleukin.